

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized photoluminescence, wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 5 or more in emission.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 18, wherein the security element is in a form selected from a group consisting of fibers, threads, strips, films, sheets, layers, tapes, plates, disks, chips and/or combinations thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The security item of claims 18 or 19, wherein apart from the security element, the security item consists mainly of paper.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~The security item of claims 18 or 19,~~ A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized photoluminescence,

wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 5 or more in emission, and

wherein apart from the security element, the security item contains one or more synthetic polymers.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 18, wherein the security element can be excited to luminescence by irradiation with electromagnetic radiation at a wavelength between 200 and 400 nm.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~The security item of claim 18,~~ A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized photoluminescence,

wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 5 or more in emission, and
wherein the security element includes at least one carrier polymer and one luminescent dye.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 23, wherein the luminescent dye is at least one partially conjugated polymer.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 23, wherein the luminescent dye is a poly-*p*-phenylene-ethynylene derivative.

Claims 26-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 18, wherein the security item is in a form selected from a group consisting of bank notes, checks, stocks, bonds, securities, identification cards, passports, drivers licenses, admission tickets, stamps, bank cards and credit cards.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized absorption, wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 5 or more in absorption.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized absorption, wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 10 or more in absorption.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 30, wherein the security element is in a form selected from a group consisting of fibers, threads, strips, films, sheets, layers, tapes, plates, disks, chips and/or combinations thereof.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The security item of claims 30 or 33, wherein apart from the security element, the security item consists mainly of paper.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The security item of claims 30 or 33, wherein apart from the security element, the security item contains one or more synthetic polymers.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 30, wherein the security element can be excited to luminescence by irradiation with electromagnetic radiation at a wavelength between 200 and 400 nm.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 30, wherein the security element includes at least one carrier polymer and one luminescent dye.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 37, wherein the luminescent dye is at least one partially conjugated polymer.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 37, wherein the luminescent dye is a poly-*p*-phenylene-ethynylene derivative.

Claims 40-42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 30, wherein the security item is in a form selected from a group consisting of bank notes, checks, stocks, bonds, securities, identification cards, passports, drivers licenses, admission tickets, stamps, bank cards and credit cards.

Claim 44-71 (Canceled).

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 32, wherein the security element is in a form selected from a group consisting of fibers, threads, strips, films, sheets, layers, tapes, plates, disks, chips and/or combinations thereof.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The security item of claims 32 or 72, wherein apart from the security element, the security item consists mainly of paper.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The security item of claims 32 or 72, wherein apart from the security element, the security item contains one or more synthetic polymers.

Claim 75 (Currently Amended): ~~The security item of claim 32,~~ A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized absorption,

wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 10 or more in absorption, and
wherein the security element can be excited to luminescence by irradiation with electromagnetic radiation at a wavelength between 200 and 400 nm.

Claim 76 (Currently Amended): ~~The security item of claim 32,~~ A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized absorption,

wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 10 or more in absorption, and
wherein the security element includes at least one carrier polymer and one luminescent dye.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 76, wherein the luminescent dye is at least one partially conjugated polymer.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 76, wherein the luminescent dye is a poly-*p*-phenylene-ethynylene derivative.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): The security item of claim 32, wherein the security item is in a form selected from a group consisting of bank notes, checks, stocks, bonds, securities, identification cards, passports, drivers licenses, admission tickets, stamps, bank cards and credit cards.

Claim 80 (New): A method for protecting an item from counterfeiting and/or for identification of authenticity and/or validity, wherein the item comprises at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized photoluminescence, and wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of five or more in emission.

Claim 81 (New): A method for protecting an item from counterfeiting and/or for identification of authenticity and/or validity, wherein the item comprises at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized absorption, wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of five or more in absorption.